

1. (currently amended) A computer implemented method of securing an agent community, comprising the steps of:

deploying a set of interdependent security agents within an agent community, the set of interdependent security agents including a configuration agent and at least one of a distribution agent, a secure copy agent, and a patrol agent; and

managing the agent community security using the security agents.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein the patrol agent has modes of operation including at least one of a passive, advisory, strict, and investigatory mode.

4. (original) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein a patrol agent in investigatory mode isolates an unauthorized agent.

5. (original) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein a patrol agent in investigatory mode doubles an unauthorized agent.

6. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, further comprising the step of:

migrating at least one security agent to another agent community.

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A computer system for securing an agent community comprising:

a processor for receiving and transmitting data; and

a memory coupled to the processor, the memory having stored therein agent information and sequences of instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to deploy a set of interdependent security agents within an agent community, and manage the agent community security using the security agents, the set of interdependent security agents including a configuration agent and at least one of a distribution agent, a secure copy agent, and a patrol agent.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) The system as claimed in ~~claim 10~~ claim 9, wherein the patrol agent has modes of operation including at least one of a passive, advisory, strict, and investigatory mode.

12. (original) The system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the patrol agent in investigatory mode isolates an unauthorized agent.

13. (original) The system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the patrol agent in investigatory mode doubles an unauthorized agent.

14. (currently amended) The system as claimed in ~~claim 10~~ claim 9, further including sequences of instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to migrate at least one security agent to another processor.